

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of meeting, January 23, 2001**

**Present:** Commissioners -

Sue Cone, Village of Calumet  
Reverend Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township  
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service -

Thomas Baker, KNHP, Park Archivist  
Kathleen Baker, KNHP, Administrative Technician  
Steve Delong, KNHP, Landscape Architect  
Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent  
Abby Sue Fisher, KNHP Chief of Research, Archival & Museum Services  
Brian Hoduski, KNHP Curator  
Geri Larsen, KNHP, Maintenance  
Rodney Larsen, KNHP Administrative Officer  
John Rosemurgy, KNHP Architect  
Fritz Rushlow, KNHP Restoration Specialist

**Absent:** Commissioners -

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service  
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan

**Recording Secretary:** Lisa Dwyer

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, January 23, 2001, at 9:00 A.M. in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters.

**Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Review of Minutes**

The corrected minutes of the Advisory Commission meeting held August 22, 2000 were distributed. Since there was not a quorum at the October meeting the minutes could not be approved at that time. They were approved at today's meeting.

The minutes of the Advisory Commission meeting held October 24, 2000 were also distributed. Since a quorum could not be met at the October meeting the minutes are for informational purposes only and cannot be approved.

## **Introductions**

Frank Fiala introduced several new KNHP staff members. Thomas Baker, park archivist, will be working under the direction of Abby Sue Fisher. Park curator, Brian Hoduski, will assist Fisher as well. Tom Baker's wife, Kathleen Baker will be working as an administrative technician. Steve Delong recently began working for the park as the landscape architect. Historical planner, Lynn Bjorkman was introduced. She has relocated to Wisconsin, but still continues to work for KNHP and returns to park headquarters several days a month. Project manager, Fritz Rushlow, exhibit restoration specialist is detailed here from the Historic Preservation Training Center. His primary job will be to direct the rehabilitation of the former C & H Administration building and Union building. Rushlow will join KNHP as a permanent park member at the conclusion of these two projects. His wife Sheila is the new contracting officer at Isle Royale National Park. Park staff member, Geri Larsen who works in maintenance was introduced.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Frank Fiala stated that KNHP now owns the C & H Administrative building. The park also acquired 26 acres on Quincy Hill. Currently the park has an offer out on the C & H Library building and four lots that go with that purchase. The park will be submitting an offer on the Quincy Pay Office. Fiala said he has requested acquisition money for the purchase of the Rowe Building in the year 2002 park budget. The park was able to get \$1.5 million dollars for the rehabilitation of the Administrative building through the efforts of Michigan's congressional delegation. The money has to be obligated by the end of this fiscal year. There were a variety of requirements that had to be met and Fiala thanked the park staff for their diligence in expediting the process necessary to enable the park to receive the \$1.5 million dollars. Fiala said that a rehabilitation analysis of the Administrative building would be done in the next several days. Fiala and Fritz Rushlow will then go to the Omaha office to present the analysis to the regional director for his approval and then on to Washington DC in May to present it to the Development Advisory Board for their approval. If all is approved, the project will go out for bids in July or August in order to obligate the money by the end of the fiscal year which is September 30, 2001.

Fiala anticipates that the park will own the Library building very soon and he expects to move the park staff into the Library building by July 2, 2001. The Seaman Mineral Museum was allocated \$410,000 through the efforts of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak and U.S. Senator Carl Levin. It is to be used for design and exhibit preparation.

On November 13, 2000, the video Keweenaw Copper: A Michigan Story premiered at the Calumet Theater. It is available for purchase in local stores.

The park and Calumet Theater sponsored a Messiah sing-along at the Calumet Theater on December 17, 2000. The park and the Michigan Humanities Council hosted a peer review session with the Board of Directors of Calumet Theater and the Calumet players in order to establish a new direction for the theater and its future.

On January 31, 2001 the park will be hosting a meeting to discuss the "copper culture." The meeting is to include a group of people who have done some collecting of ancient artifacts and who would like to have some affiliation with the park. Among other people who will participate in the meeting is the state archaeologist, John Halsey, and Dr. Susan Martin, professor of archaeology at Michigan Tech.

The opera, *The Children of the Keweenaw*, will premier at the Calumet Theater on July 11, 2001. Fiala suggested that the Advisory Commission hold one of its regular meetings on July 11, 2001 as well so that they can attend the premier that evening.

The meeting with Sandra Clark in Lansing had to be delayed because of scheduling conflicts, according to Fiala. Tentative dates for the meeting in Lansing are now March 15 or March 22.

### **Reports from the Commissioners**

Reverend Robert Langseth commented that there is a great deal of education that needs to be done at the local level as well as the legislative level regarding the uniqueness of the park and its partnership concept. Reverend Langseth suggested that a meeting be organized in order to begin establishing what the goals and plans are for the various park buildings and properties.

Larry Lankton reported on St. Anne's Church. There will be exterior renovation work taking place this summer. As of today, there is \$34,000 available to use toward the renovation and an additional \$41,000 grant request has been submitted. Lankton stated that by the next Advisory Commission meeting he should have something to report regarding the hospital signage issue on Quincy Hill. He also wondered if it was possible to have signage that would identify the National Historic Landmark districts. Paul Lehto remarked that the state highway department might be able to provide this kind of sign. Lehto said he would look into it. Lankton asked how the site assessment is going at the Quincy Smelter. Fiala said that he had nothing to report on the Smelter. Lankton asked what the plans are for the rehab of the Administrative building. Fiala said that the plans are to have an archival facility and a public reading room.

Lankton spoke of the poor rock piles. He suggested that a study of the history of the poor rock piles would make a good master's thesis for a student from the Industrial Archaeology program. He added that a study would be good ammunition to show the significance of preserving some of the rock piles.

Sue Cone announced that there would be a public hearing tonight, Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 P.M. to take comment on the Historic District Ordinance for the Village of

Calumet. At 6:00 P.M. there will be an informational session regarding the ordinance. Lynn Bjorkman will be in attendance at the meetings. An Arts, Cultural, and Quality of Life grant for \$150,000 was received last year to do some work behind stage as well as some electrical work in the Calumet Theater. The Village of Calumet will also be applying for an Americana Foundation grant to help with additional repairs on the theater. Cone asked if any progress has been made on trying to preserve some of the poor rock piles. Fiala said that there has been no progress.

Clyde Raasio reported that the new water system in the Quincy and Franklin units is done and the restoration to the landscape and roads is also complete. Raasio stressed the need for signage to identify where the park units are located. Raasio, Paul Lehto, and Larry Lankton met with the mayor and the city manager of Hancock recently to discuss city projects that may impact the park. The major project that the city of Hancock is embarking on is the industrial park. There is a six-acre parcel behind the Pay office on Quincy Hill that Larry Lankton noted would be important for the park to obtain in order to prevent further deterioration of the Quincy site. It was originally intended to be developed as a residential site, but the city seems agreeable to selling the six-acre parcel to the park, according to Raasio. Lankton added there is potential for a road to be built near the Quincy Mining Company office building because of an easement that comes out from that six-acre parcel and he noted that a road there would mean further deterioration to the Quincy site.

Fiala spoke about Hancock's plans to establish an industrial park. He said the city briefed the park on its plans. Fiala recommended to the city that it do an archaeological study on the site. Professor Patrick Martin of Michigan Tech conducted the study. A portion of the forty-acre track involved with the industrial park site falls within the park boundaries. Fiala added that he and the Advisory Commission need to take a thorough look at how the industrial park will affect the National Historic Landmark district there.

Paul Lehto reported that the park has made an offer to Lake Superior Land Company to purchase its current office building, the former C & H Library building. Lake Superior Land Company has been asked if they would be interested in relocating their business office to the former State Police Post in Calumet if they do sell the Library building. The Copper Country Curling Club will soon be using the old C & H Drill shop as its facility if plans go through as expected. The school nearby needs to agree to allow parking on its grounds to users of the building. The park has been working on purchasing the Osceola 13 historic easement. Moyle Contracting has given the buildings and 25 acres at Osceola 13 to Calumet Township. The township is making plans on how to stabilize the Superior Boiler House smokestack. There are no funds yet for stabilization. The Red Jacket Road project for streetlights and new sidewalks is funded and ready to go in the spring. The township is working on a project to put together an exhibit of the electric hoists from the Kingston, Allouez, and Osceola 13 mines.

### **Reports, Comments, and Questions from the Public**

Amy Wisti of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak's office reported that U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow's Lansing office is up and running. She hasn't heard where Stabenow's Northern Michigan office will be located, yet.

Dick Dana reported that the Morrison School has been deeded over to Coppertown. The building might become the future home for Coppertown operations. It may be used as a museum for interpretation of certain aspects of the social history of the area. It will take several years and much planning, according to Dana. Dana added that Coppertown would work in conjunction with the park service, the township, and other cooperating sites. Dana also reported on Keweenaw County Historical Society activities. A visitor's center will be open next summer at Central Mine. There is also to be an exhibit at the maritime museum at Eagle Harbor.

Steve Whelan, the president of the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club said his club is interested helping to preserve the poor rock piles. Whelan's club belongs to the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Science. This group consists of about 176 mineralogical clubs across the Midwest. The group is also interested in committing both funds and time to try to preserve some of the rock piles here. A club out of Ohio is specifically interested in the Cliff Mine site. They are willing to commit funds there. The rock piles are disappearing at a rapid and alarming pace, Whalen said. He recommended that the rock pile owners be contacted and simply start talking to them in order to get their cooperation in preserving the more significant rock piles.

Ed Yarbrough, manager of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association reported that the association has been holding off replacing their sign in order to get some uniformity with what the park will eventually be using for signage.

Yarbrough expressed the QMHA board's thanks to Paul Lehto for grant money in the amount of \$25,000 that Calumet Township is planning on turning over to the association for planning purposes at the Quincy Smelter. Lehto explained that the township applied for a \$25,000 grant through the EPA. The township was encouraged by the EPA to apply for a larger grant in the amount of \$65,000. The township did apply for the \$65,000. Lehto said he is certain that the grant will be awarded.

Yarbrough spoke of the land acquisitions that QMHA has made within the last year, which has increased the boundaries of QMHA holdings to a comfortable margin. Some repairs are being done on the 1918 Hoist House. The association received a grant from KHNP for \$18,000 to do some cement repair work there. It is necessary to do the repairs because it is a public safety issue. Ultimately the repair work that needs to be done may cost anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Yarbrough will be working with Abby Sue Fisher, Brian Hoduski, and Tom Baker to record all the artifacts at Quincy. Yarbrough said that a QMHA staff member would also be trained to record and store artifacts. Yarbrough said that it is important to give the public confidence in the knowledge that if they are going to donate artifacts to various historical museums, the level of curation is high and that there is accountability as to what happens to objects. He added that the QMHA is working on donating four ore cars to the Houghton County Historical Society

for its exhibit of a C & H locomotive. Yarbrough noted that QMHA has 25 ore cars on its property.

Dennis Borst, president of the Houghton County Historical Society, thanked Frank Fiala for the park's support with guidance and money in helping with the exterior restoration of the former First Congregational Church in Lake Linden, which is owned by the society. The church contains the second oldest organ in Michigan. One of the society's projects is to restore the organ. Borst also noted that its steam locomotive is almost up and running. Plans are being made to lay the track around the society's 15-acre site in Lake Linden. Borst encouraged the sharing of artifacts between museums.

John Griffith, president of the Northwoods Conservancy, wondered if there are any long term plans to go deeper into the Quincy Mine. He said he has noticed that the depth of the Quincy Mine fascinates visitors. He stressed the importance of promoting the natural history of the area. He suggested that a good place to display an informational sign explaining the park boundaries as well as explaining the concept of a "cooperative park" would be at the visitor's overlook on Quincy Hill because it is such a popular place for visitors to stop.

The Advisory Commission reconvened for a special work session after today's regular meeting was over.

The Advisory Commission regular meeting dates for the remainder of the year 2001 are as follows:

Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Lisa A. Dwyer  
Departmental Coordinator  
Department of Social Sciences  
Michigan Tech University